

Firstly I would just like to say that the eSafety commissioner Julie Grant should be stood down for her complete disregard for freedom of speech and the free discourse of information online.

I will make my arguments below in simple numbered points as to what Australia and the government should do and not do regarding the internet, online discourse and online safety.

1. We do not need unelected bureaucrats, who are not accountable to the electorate, that we cannot vote out of office telling us what we can and cannot view or discuss online.

2. The free exchange of Ideas and information is essential to a democracy. In the information age that is predominately online. We talk too much today about what the government can do for us, but nowhere near enough about what the government should be explicitly prevented from doing.

Now this is why the American founding fathers signed the 1st amendment into law, which I shall quote below as many Australian bureaucrats could take some ideas from it!

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

3. It is a futile Endeavor for the Esaftey commission to think that they can police what every Australians see and discuss online. Any one who is slightly tech savvy can use VPN's, Tor, encrypted messaging services to bypass any measure the Esaftey commission puts into place to geoBlock Australians from seeing certain sources of information.

4. To further on from point 3 if the Esaftey commission was to strictly enforce what Australians can and can't see online via geoBlocking they would prevent many Australians from seeing politically relevant information and discourse, as many of them are not tech savvy enough to use VPN's/Tor ect.

I am going to say that this is entirely their intent as they wish to use the guise of "Its for your own saftey" to censor what can and can't be seen online. If we allow them the tools to do this they can weaponize them to hide truths, twist the narrative to suit political parties, all to keep themselves in power.

Now onto what the Esaftey commision should be doing online to protect Australians.

5. Preventing the spread of CP online In Australia. Identifying individuals that access CP content online In Australia. Anyone who views or creates this kind of content is a sicko and should be dealt with in the harshest manner possible.

6. Preventing online scams. Online scams are rampant in Australia, from SMS phishing attacks to Email phishing, to straight out cold calls from scammers. These scammers need to be stopped as this hurts Australians financially! Its much more serious that someone posting something mean online, or sharing a violent video that was already shared by every single news outlet and streamed online. Sextortion scams are also increasingly common and I am not sure what the ESafety commission can do about this apart from educating people to not share explicit images of themselves online as the first step, and as the second step trying to identify and prosecute the culprits, often this is quite difficult as they are overseas actors.

7. Inciting Violence. Inciting violence is the only form of online speech that should not be allowed unanimously. Some threats made to another person or persons online should be taken seriously. The threat if credible, should be reported to the relevant authorities. The threat would then be investigated and based on the credibility of that threat the person should or should not be charged. It would be up to a court to decide any punishment.

Note I want to emphasise here that only CREDIBLE threats of violence here should be taken to court, not shit posters, comedians, or anyone else who is perhaps making a joke in poor taste.

8. Bullying online. Its not up to the government to prevent people from being bullied online. What ever happened to sticks and stones. If someone bullying you online block them, or get offline.

In conclusion the Esaftey commission should not have the powers to sensor, geoBlock, or prosecute anyone in Australia from sharing information online. Unless its either to prevent a Scam or to prevent CP.